Springer, William

DRAWER 27

Tributes

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Tributes to

Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources providing testimonials lauding the 16th President of the United States

Writings of

William Springer

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02123

Biscayne 4-Door Sedan shows the Fisher Body beauty of Chevrolet's lowest priced series for '59.

More miles are back in a gallon of regular-grade gas—up to 10% more—and Chevy's new Hi-Thrift 6 engine puts them there. It also gives you better acceleration and smoother performance in the middle range speeds you drive the most.

Here's an engine that always seems able to coax extra miles out of a tank of regular-grade gas. In fact, if you're one of those drivers who keep tab on things like gas mileage, the little book in your glove box will soon prove to you that this new Hi-Thrift 6 actually gets up to 10% more miles a gallon.

Another thing you'll like about this 135-h.p. 6 is the extra pep it gives you for passing and climbing hills. This is due to higher torque at normal speeds.

It's hard to believe anything that looks and moves like this '59 Chevy can be such a stickler for economy. But—whether you pick the Hi-Thrift 6 or a vim-packed V8—you'll find the ability to get more miles out of a gallon of regular gas is just one more reason Chevy's the car that's wanted for all its worth. Stop by your dealer's and see.

CHEVROLET

The smart switch is to the '59 Chevy!

CHEVY'S NEW HI-THRIFT 6

Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Detroit 2, Michigan

New Center News
February 2, 1959

William Springer's Lincolnbook

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 1 ★

By William Springer

Author's Note: This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnbook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.

New Center News
February 2, 1959

MEN OF SORROW

February is the birth month of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of our United States, and of the father of our country, George Washington, the first President of the United States.

It is a sad day for Michigan, one of the most beautiful states in the Union, when circumstances make it necessary for us to commemorate the birthdays of these founders of America in sorrow and in shame.

If Lincoln and Washington were to rise from their honored graves today, they would be forced to close their eyes with regret of what the New Dealers have done to the Constitution for which they sacrificed their lives.

How disappointed they would be to find a state of the nation that was "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" fallen into the ruthless hands of merciless labor outlaws. With what reproach these honest men would look upon the face of the man we call Governor when they discovered he paid no heed to the voice of the court and refused to carry out the enactments of the judges of his state.

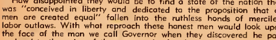
When Lincoln wrote in his famed Gettysburg address the line referring to the civil war then being fought "testing whether that notion, or any notion so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure," he did not realize that nearly seventy-five years later the country for which he so painstakingly worked would be in the throes of an industrial war which is destroying the very foundations of that nation.

This dissension between industry and labor is contrary to the principles of liberty and justice as believed and practiced by Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Such a controversy is similar to a civil war—a civil war with the body of the people on one side and a selfish, greedy group of labor organizers on the other.

In the Gettysburg address Lincoln asked "that this notion, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

If Lincoln were alive today to witness the destruction of government for the people, he would sigh in despondency and hopelessness, for his labors seem to have been lost.

—Monday, February 15, 1937.



THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR. This pen and ink sketch was the most widely reprinted caricature of 1937. It appeared in the New Center News on Monday, February 22, 1937 and with it we launched an unsuccessful recall of Governor Frank Murphy who condoned "sit-down" strikes, while we steadfastly maintained that the seizure of private property was unconstitutional and un-American.

LINCOLN: TRUE AMERICAN

One hundred and twenty-nine years ago, on the twelfth of February, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. His parents were common people, almost desperately poor. Life was a struggle from beginning to the end for young Mr. Lincoln.

The normal advantages of a young boy and man were denied Abraham. His education was scanty, gained largely by his own efforts over almost unbelievable obstacles.

That a poor young farm boy whose opportunities were so very meager could rise to the heights attained by Lincoln should be a constant inspiration to people living in this age of great opportunities.

The story of Lincoln's rise from a struggling pioneer boy without even elementary school education to the position of America's sixteenth president, is known to all Americans. We honor him on his birthday every year.

We honor him for the virtues that made him the great man he was; for his attributes of honesty and integrity; simplicity and directness. Abraham Lincoln will always be to us a symbol of Americanism at its best.

As we celebrate his birthday next Saturday, we may well pause to consider these facilities that enabled Lincoln to rise above the lowly status into which he was born. There is not one among us who might not do better to aim toward achieving similar qualities in a proportionate degree.

—Monday, February 7, 1938.

SPIRIT OF LINCOLN

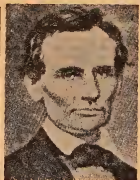
To have delegated to us in our nation's great tragedy of today the option of creating a better world for tomorrow is a great responsibility and calls for a magnificent spirit, a spirit emulating the humble Abraham Lincoln.

Not to take up this option to stop the spread of evil throughout the world is to admit we are too weak and not the united nation Lincoln made us. We would do well to consider the utter lack of pettiness in one who had cause for just envy of other men, their more fortunate birth.

When we quibble over sugar rationing, coffee rationing, overtime work on war production, and bond buying while nearly two billion people are starving all over the world, in our lack of wisdom we do not realize that we are fighting for our existence as a nation.

Lincoln knew he had more than just a fight on his hands and quietly he took up the gauntlet and with faith in God worked to save the Union. We too can use a bit of that faith in the Almighty and apply a bit of common sense along with it.

—Monday, February 8, 1943.



BEARDLESS LINCOLN. Meserve No. 20, often referred to as the Cooper Institute portrait taken by Mathew B. Brady, February 27, 1860 when the Emancipator made his famous "House Divided" speech.

NO DEADHEADS

On Thursday, February 12, the nation will observe the birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, whose foresight helped make us the united country we are today. He had the power to see into the future and take measures to remedy our country's ills, thus providing a better nation for posterity. The responsibility of building a greater nation was his—the responsibility of again keeping this nation whole is ours. Each of us must play our part, whether an important part of a minor role.

And in America's great war effort the role of John Doe looms big. Mr. Average Citizen is an important man to his country today. For each and every one of us there is a definite place in the defense scheme, a job to be done. Your task may differ from your neighbor's, but its up to you to get there and do it.

We can't all be heroes, but we can be big in our own way. We can give our time to our country. Don't let the other fellow carry your load. There's some special thing you can do better than any one else. Offer your services. Don't wait to be asked. You don't feel you're showing a lack of patriotism because you haven't signed up for some kind of war work, you tell yourself. You simply are rushed to death and don't see how you can fit it into your busy schedule. But isn't it time you roused yourself from that lethargy and did something, no matter how small the task?

In the final analysis no red blooded American, deep down within himself, wants to belong to that category of whom Lincoln said feel that they are required "to touch neither a sail nor a pump, but to be merely passengers—deadheads at that—to be carried snug and dry through the storm, and safely landed right side up."

—Monday, February 9, 1942.

A SON WAS BORN

One hundred and thirty-one years ago today, thirty-three years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and ten years following the death of George Washington, a son was born to Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln on a wilderness farm near Hodgenville, Ky. Little did the world then realize that this child was to become one of the greatest national heroes this country ever produced. Today, the greatness of the man has become more firmly embedded in the hearts of his countrymen than ever before, and men are willing to champion the ideals that were his.

Every American knows by heart the story of his humble beginning, the hardships he bore throughout his life. They have read of his great courage and sound thinking which he exercised in troublous times, when the world about him was darkened by shadows of hate and destruction.

The admiration and respect which this humble man commanded was more astonishing when it is considered that he was strongly opposed by a vast number of citizens. When he arrived in Washington in 1861 for the Inaugural, he was not deafened by the shouts of the multitude. He was then just Abe Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States, and not a hero in any respect.

The truth and goodness of the man are reflected in writings which touched upon that period in our history. While bitterness prevailed in the hearts of those around him, his attitude was constantly one of compassion for others.

His assassination is recorded as one of the blackest blots in our national history, and his assassin, John Wilkes Booth, has become one of the world's darkest villains.

Today, as in other years, his birthday is honored in a national holiday. The influence which Lincoln has had upon the world cannot be easily estimated, for it is too vast for average mind to grasp.

—Monday, February 12, 1940.

MEN AND IDEALS

No month in our calendar brings so forceful an example of Americanism than the month of February—the month in which we celebrate the births of our two greatest presidents. For these two men are apt illustrations of a heritage which is possessed by no other land. We honor two men in February who began life in completely different circumstances. Abraham Lincoln was born in poverty, while George Washington knew luxury from his birth.

Yet, they both possessed ideals which Americans worship, ideals to which we pay homage from year to year, because they gave of themselves unselfishly. They labored and struggled for causes which they believed right, and in the face of overwhelming odds, they achieved victory. Neither man sought personal gain. Both of them achieved fame although their life courses were widely separated.

Last week we honored the "Great Emancipator." This Thursday, we will pay homage to the "Father of Our Country." Washington possessed the type of leadership which was necessary for a young and inexperienced country. He guided it safely through trying years and sacrificed his personal desires for the good of the nation. He laid down principles which leading statesmen point to as an ideal pattern, for Washington was at all times insistent that America remain the land of the free.

And such it has remained since the beginning. While other countries are dominated by ruthless dictators, and many are tortured by oppression, America has safeguarded its liberty, for we realize that there is nothing else so precious.

Both Lincoln and Washington represented the cause of freedom, and it is with the utmost respect and admiration for their leadership that we pay tribute to them.

—Monday, February 19, 1940.

LINCOLN: THE MAN

February 12th marks the birthday of America's greatest president. Abraham Lincoln was a simple man of simple tastes. The story of his courage is a noble example for any true American to follow.

The spirit to continue in the face of discouragement and ability to overcome defeat were his true qualities of leadership. Bitter disappointments and unhappiness marked his long career, which would have caused many men to give up. But Mr. Lincoln was no quitter. If he had been, the world probably would never have heard of him. His determination to see things through and conviction that he must do so by hard work alone, made him an outstanding figure in American history, beloved by all true sons of our land.

Mr. Lincoln expounded the theory that stick-to-itiveness goes for success. He succeeded by his courage and vision that helped create a new life on earth for his fellowmen. Honesty and doing for others was the whole philosophy of his life. It was the thought he tried to instill into the hearts and minds of every man and woman who came in contact with him. He encouraged them to carry on, to be of more essential service to their country.

His people's joys were his joys; their sorrows his sorrows. Though he walked with the mighty, he never lost the common touch. America is a better and finer place because of him. He loved that way of life which has always permitted a man to dream, to work and to fight for those dreams to come true. There may be other Lincolns in the generations to come, as long as America remains a land of free men; men who are not afraid of the future, who are not afraid to work, and ask nothing except a chance.

Out of the ceaseless surging of the sea of struggle and discouragement, he arose to leadership to give further courage to American life. He was one of the most patriotic supporters and conservators of true American ideals and institutions. He was kind and understanding, and deeply sympathetic with the struggles and sorrows of humanity.

Lincoln freed the slaves so that we may be a land of free people. We will harbor no communistic ideas nor dictators. It would be interesting if Lincoln were alive today to follow his reaction to European entanglements. This honest, earnest, fearless man, always working in the cause of right, would act as a tower of strength in these hectic days.

We salute you Father Abraham—your name stands for courage, action, simplicity, honesty, freedom—you are an example of true Americanism.

—Monday, February 10, 1941.

ern Variety Productions. Each department has its own qualified director.

Negotiations are under way for the leasing of a suitable theatre. An eight month season per year is planned. Each department will be allotted a week-end production each month.

Since it's inception, over 100 applications have been processed at the theatre's temporary headquarters, the Fort Wayne Hotel.

Interviews and auditions are being held for Operatic Roles and Choruses, Light Opera, Drama and Comedy Repertoire, Speciality Acts, Dancers, etc. Openings are available for artistic and technical department assistants.

Casting is already under way for an early Spring production, and at the close of the talent drive, The Detroit Theatre Arts will then be filed as a non-profit corporation with prominent Detroit executives as officers and board members.

Personal interviews and auditions are being held in the ballroom of the Fort Wayne Hotel on Monday through Friday during the month of February.

For appointment, phone WAlnut 3-6262.

For the National Spelling Bee last year, finalists came from 65 U.S. cities and one chosen from 148 American schools scattered from Norway to North Africa and from Germany to Turkey. These regional champions, representing more than 5 million youngsters, had worked their way up through contests covering huge metropolitan areas as well as the wide-flung American schools overseas.

"A married man always knows exactly where his money goes—his wife spent

New Center News
February 9, 1959

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New Center News
February 9, 1959

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 2 ★

By William Springer

Author's Note. **This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnbook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.**

FREEDOM FOR ALL IN A WORLD OF FREE NATIONS

The idea of personal freedom for all mankind dominated the life of Abraham Lincoln and made him great. So pure was his concept that freedom is every man's heritage, that he believed no price too great to pay for preserving it.

As Lincoln fought for the freedom of all mankind, we fight for the freedom of all nations. Today, that same undaunted spirit of freedom-loving men that carried the country through bitter, heart-breaking years of struggle, lives in the heart of every fighting man in this bloody war, and in the heart of every civilian on the homefront, working, fighting for liberty from oppression, for everyone, forever.

The heritage of democratic thinking which Lincoln left to posterity inspires us to work and fight to preserve our freedom. Words make but a poor tribute to the greatness of the man who was Abraham Lincoln. His devotion to justice and liberty, his magnificent service to his country will ever be revered.

Abraham Lincoln was a clear-sighted, practical man. His duty as he performed it, was to consistently reject and fight against deceit and selfish greed, to uphold our democracy's doctrine of freedom. That is evident in his supreme acts of statesmanship in national crises of the past.

As a soldier in his youth, as president later, Lincoln knew the real horror of warfare. His plea for legislation to make the Civil War "short, sharp and decisive", gave sound to his enemies for all that war meant—gave voice to his courage—in preserving liberty and justice at even so great a cost.

As Lincoln's enemies again ravish peace-loving peoples in the form of the vicious Axis powers, we are inspired by his spirit living anew in the American people, to again fight against tyranny, this time for universal liberation of the enslaved peoples and those threatened by fascist enslavers, throughout the world.

May there one day soon, by our united efforts, be the thing he fought for most: "Freedom for All In a World of Free Nations".

Monday, February 12, 1945.

HE WAS THE MAN

Abraham Lincoln, a name to make men pause and think, a name to conjure up visions.

We see him, a tall awkward boy, lying full length before a fireplace, pondering over books, studying law, fitting himself for the future that lay before him. We see him trudging over miles of unthinkably bad roads to return a few cents change. We see him chopping wood, his arms too long for his coat sleeves, his hands red and chapped from the weather. We see him a grown man, gaunt and sad of face, standing before a crowd at Gettysburg. His clothes still do not seem to fit, his black tie is off to one side. His collar bulges around his neck, his hands hang slack at his sides as he shuffles forward to the speaker's stand, and we hear his voice rumble forth in what might easily be called the greatest speech made by man.

Lincoln was afraid, that day. His brilliant opponent had left him feeling that no one in the audience could pay much attention to him. But, he had a speech to make, so he made it. He spoke simply, briefly, the words coming from within his great heart more than his mind.

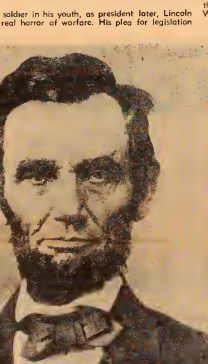
We see him in other settings, too. At the side of wounded soldiers, his fine eyes filled with agony for the suffering humanity around him. We see him giving audience to the mother of a boy who had gone to sleep, while on guard duty. We have visions of him with the little children who were lucky enough to know him. .

We see him in his quiet dignity receiving the rich and famous and influential of his own and other countries. We can vision him, his black cloak clutched around him, walking lonely paths that he might think undisturbed.

We see him seated in a theater, and hear a shot. We see the swift agony that flashed across his face, and the slow stain of blood spreading on his clothing.

No matter what vision the name Abraham Lincoln brings to man's mind, however, the measure is always the same: "In every sense, he was the man."

Monday, February 10, 1947.



BEARDED LINCOLN. Meserve No. 59, often referred to as the Gettysburg portrait, taken by Alexander Gardner, November 15, 1863, four days before the immortal Gettysburg speech.

WE NEED ANOTHER 'ABE'

A man who is known as Honest Abe, once made a statement that put him in the Paul Bunyon class, so far as inaccuracy is concerned. It happened at Gettysburg, when Honest Abe said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it will never forget what they did here."

That statement was made on a day that is now beyond the memory of most of us, but still stands, strong, sincere, a part of what is perhaps the greatest speech ever made by (a mortal) man. When he said those words, Lincoln, in his modesty, certainly did not dream how inaccurate he was, how long his words would be remembered.

Mr. Lincoln's heart was heavy, touched with sympathy and compassion for his nation, which was suffering. He spoke with no oratorical eloquence, his gestures were awkward, and his deep voice rumbled out over the people gathered there to listen. He felt they had not come to hear him, but the others, whom he considered far above him.

Typical of the man, he spoke what was in his heart, not what he thought the people might like to hear. Today, because of that simplicity and the way it touched the heart of that crowd, children, to whom he is a nothing but a picture on the wall, or a statue in Washington, memorize those words. They repeat them with reverence, and with a catch in their voices. Yes, Honest Abe was wrong that day, he uttered a great untruth, but today we love him for it.

His beloved country has passed some of its worst growing pains, but there are more. Slavery, the thing which threw state against state, brother against brother, is gone, but in its place we find jealousy, greed, intolerance, bigotry, deceit. It batters Lincoln's country back and forth, tearing at her moral fibers, her foundations, her unity. We cannot help but wonder what Honest Abe would say, now, for surely his heart would be heavy again, were he here.

He was honest, simple, fearless, a type for which the man on the street today prays, and passes on the greatest tribute any historical personage ever received, when he sighs and says: "What this country needs is another Abe Lincoln!"

Monday, February 10, 1947.

LINCOLN: THE MAN OF ANY HOUR

Perhaps more than any other man before or since his time, Abraham Lincoln typifies the spirit that is America. Here is the poor boy that made good. Here is the barefoot lad that became the President of his country. Lincoln didn't look exactly like the type of man who would become a brilliant success—that is, not by the copy-book standards. He was shabby, awkward, rather modest and shy.

He hadn't read any guidepost to making friends and influencing people. He pored over law books and stories about people who initiated the wilderness that was the beginning of his country. It wasn't easy in those days either, yet he did influence people with his quiet but firm ways. By standing on his own two feet, by carefully and deliberately thinking problems out, he had the temerity to make important moves and decisions—he had the facility for getting to the core of matters. Lincoln had a down-to-earth manner, and a shrewd honesty that no amount of politics could rub off. This is a quality that has become as extinct as goofus feathers.

In a year that will be emblazoned by campaign literature, it might be interesting to look back at a bit of Lincoln's campaign publicity, so as not to take smearing too seriously. He was called Honest Abe, a nickname he won through a lifetime of fair dealing. Headlines read: "Honest Abe is just what this sorely swindled nation needs." His enemies sneered that Lincoln "looked like an African gorilla and talked like a third-rate slang-whanging lawyer." His campaign handlers deftly countered with: "We know Old Abe doesn't look very handsome, but if all the ugly men in the United States vote for him, he will surely be elected." Adversaries are always ready to throw stones at the candidate most likely to win, but history writes his deeds in an everlasting document left for the world to examine.

Monday, February 9, 1948.

THE RAIL SPLITTER

We celebrate a birthday this week—the birthday of the back-woods lawyer from Illinois, the man who could split a rail and tell a good story with the same facility. Abe Lincoln—the boy who was born in Kentucky, reared in Indiana, lived in Illinois, assassinated in Washington as President of the United States.

In Lincoln's day, the states were not united—the vast economic differences in the North and South were coming to a point where war was the outcome. Astute historians know that the Civil War was not a question of the rights of the slaves. The real problem was the two widely different economic systems—the North was primarily industrial and the South on agrarian society.

The tall, rangy, homely man who sat in the White House was faced with the toughest job of his times. The years were, to say the least, difficult ones. But Abe Lincoln had a way of putting things so the people could understand. He was no polished orator, as Dan Webster, he was a simple man, and he spoke with simple words to convey his ideas.

That he was a great President has been adjudged true by history. For it is only in the light of subsequent events that a President may be judged true by history. For it is only in the light up to us to keep that belief alive.

Monday—February 14, 1949

EXPOSING A FRAUD

No doubt there will be some controversy raised questioning the article by Roy Hays in the current issue of the Abraham Lincoln Quarterly. Mr. Hays, as we well know, is a thorough and accurate historian. He says that the log cabin enshrined near Hodgenville in Kentucky as the birthplace of the Great Emancipator is one of the biggest hoaxes in history.

Actually, Lincoln's birthplace was dismantled and used for firewood. But in 1894 Alfred Dennett decided on a really big scheme to make money. He purchased the old Lincoln farm and moved a log house from the adjoining property. This he said was where Lincoln was born.

After years of painstaking research and careful checking of each fact, Mr. Hays has proved that not only is the so-called birthplace a hoax, but that it is built of logs which never formerly part of the false log cabin where Jefferson Davis is supposed to have been born. Mr. Hays has a little-known letter from Robert Todd Lincoln, the President's son, which states very plainly: "The structure now enshrined in a great marble building in Hodgenville is a fraud as an actual home."

We have known Mr. Hays for great many years. He is possessed of an extraordinary ability as investigator for large insurance companies, and we have yet to meet a historian to question his sincerity of purpose, which is backed by documentary evidence.

Monday, Feb. 9, 1948

manager, announced Saturday.

AC finished ahead of every other GM division in the United States except Rochester Products, Rochester, N.Y.

With 12,798 eligible employes — 8,757 in Flint and 4,041 in Milwaukee—AC is the largest GM division to place in the top 10 in the corporation's ratings in 1958. AC has been in the first five for the past six years, he added.

Final standings are based on three factors: employe participation, number of suggestions per eligible employe, and percentage of suggestions adopted.

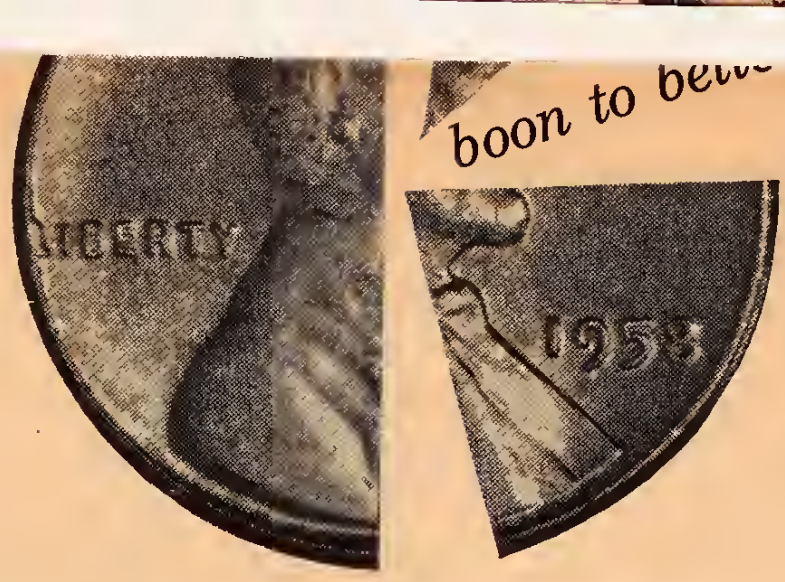
In 1958, Curtis said, AC paid out $173,462 for suggestions in Flint and $88,284 in Milwaukee.

AC employes in Flint submitted 24,334 suggestions, of which 31 per cent were adopted, while 7,438 remained to be acted upon. In Milwaukee, 11,486 suggestions were submitted, 27.5 per cent adopted, and there were 2,772 on which action was not final.

"These figures show," Curtis said, "that AC folks contributed, on the average, about three ideas each during the year. We are proud of our record and are going to do all we can to keep improving it. I want to congratulate all AC people.

"Suggestions help in many ways—to make better products, to make our products at lower cost, to improve working conditions, and to reduce waste. Such progress is good for everybody.

The capital city of the Aztec Indians is buried beneath the present capital of Mexico. According to The World Book Encyclopedia, the Aztecs built their city, called Tenochtitlan, on islands which they enlarged by filling huge reed rafts.



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of NBD's 63 neighborhood offices and pick up your free Budget Book. While you're there ask about an NBD ECON-O-CHECK® or regular checking account that will help you keep better records of expenditures, and about NBD savings plans that help you put money aside for the future and protect your savings with bank safety and security.

More friends because we help more people

NATIONAL BANK
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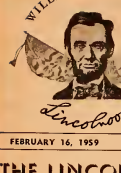
New Center News
February 16, 1959



"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 3 ★

By William Springer

Author's Note — "This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.

THE LINCOLN COLLECTOR

Scholars and students alike are still baffled by the Secret Lincoln Papers given by Robert Todd Lincoln to the Congressional Library in 1947. They are baffled as to why they were earmarked "secret".

The papers were presented amid much pomp and ceremony with a great fanfare of publicity. Yet, they left the Lincoln collectors present, of whom this writer was one, keenly disappointed. Practically every work that has been published on Abraham Lincoln contained texts in full or in part from these "secret papers".

Contrast this much heralded event with the private collection of Oliver R. Barrett, prominent Chicago attorney about whom Carl Sandburg wrote the book last year entitled "The Lincoln Collector". Mr. Barrett's collection, to our way of thinking, contains a great deal more source material, touching more on Lincoln's private and political life—than the one donated the United States Government by Lincoln's son.

In the Robert Todd Lincoln collection there is nothing personal, nothing that might possibly be termed scandalous. It is my opinion that certain parts of the collection have been destroyed by the son who was determined to discredit his father's biography by William H. Herndon, the prairie lawyer's law partner for nearly twenty years.

In the Barrett collection, on the other hand, there is a human side of Lincoln that would much enhance the collection in Washington. There are the watch and chain that Lincoln wore; there are mementos of Mary Todd Lincoln; there are papers Abraham Lincoln intended to burn before leaving Springfield for Washington that were salvaged by a neighbor. It is a priceless collection, carefully and painstakingly gathered together by Mr. Barrett from the time he was fourteen years of age.

Many agree that this collection is the missing link, the thing that is needed to make a truly important collection of the original Lincoln papers now in Washington. If it were given or sold to the National Archives, the American people would have a real documentary picture of the greatest American of them all.

Monday, February 13, 1950.

THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR

Many versatile actors have won acclaim in both stage and film versions of Abraham Lincoln. He was the product of the pioneer wave that swept westward in the settling of the mid-western states which, during his lifetime, grew to an economic and political status that shaped historic events. He was a wilderness child, born in a clay-floor cabin with one window and a door. He went barefoot in summer and wore deerskin in winter.

Few people know that Lincoln's ancestors were Quakers. His father Thomas, and grandfather Abraham, were born in Rockingham County, Va., but his ancestors had come from Berks County, Pa. However, in later years, they left away from the peculiar habits of Quakers.

In 1816, the Lincoln family moved from Kentucky into southern Indiana, settling near Gentryville, Spencer County, and fourteen years later they moved to southern Illinois. Here they settled into an unbroken forest and from then on, Lincoln, although very young, had an axe placed into his hands and until his twenty-third year, he almost constantly worked with the axe.

The best known stories about young Abraham are those of him studying nights sprawled on the floor; reading by the light of the open fireplace; his purchase of a bankrupt store that took him fifteen years to pay off; how he became a lawyer and how he was elected a member of Congress. One tender memory was the inscription inside the wedding ring he placed on Mary Todd's finger: "Love Is Eternal".

Perhaps more than any other man before or since his time, Abraham Lincoln typifies the spirit of America. Almost six foot four inches in height, he walked with an easy saunter. His awkwardness, his sense of humor, his story-telling and his fair dealings won for him the nickname of "Honest Abe". While President, he became one of the new makers of history, moulding events as well as being moulded by them. One of his greatest maneuvers resulted in a tentative and then a permanent Emancipation Proclamation on the grounds of "military necessity," setting millions of slaves free in territory not yet occupied or controlled by his armies.

More than six thousand books and pamphlets have been written about him. His life is held up high as an example by many the world over, to use as the personal key to a successful life. All of the drama that attached to his rising from the lowliest of peasants the highest office in our land, where he "struck the shackles from three million slaves" was intensified by his assassination as he sat in a box at Ford's Theatre, in Washington on Good Friday, April 14, 1865.

It is difficult to imagine Lincoln in the world as it is today. We are wondering about his reaction to the wars, high taxes and world domination. Regardless, the greatness of the man who delivered the classic Gettysburg speech in 1863, is imbedded in the hearts of the country more than ever before, and all the people this 12th day of February, 1952, who pay humble admiration and respect to Lincoln would do greatest honor to his memory if they practice some of his basic principles today.

Monday, February 11, 1952.

CAPTAIN ABRAHAM LINCOLN of the Black Hawk War in 1832. This statue by Leonard Crunelli was erected in memory of Lincoln the soldier in Dixon, Illinois, September 22, 1930. (U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo.)

LINCOLN AND WASHINGTON

With the testimony of the ages, we may point to two leaders who are assured of a permanent place in the pages of United States history and in the hearts of their fellow countrymen. In the mind's eye, it is simple to picture them both. One, an aristocrat, statesman and soldier, equally at home in dusty battle trenches or velvet waistcoat and ruffled shirt. The other, a dark giant, seemingly uncomfortable in his somber black suit, tireless worker, wise and gentle leader. Different in many ways, it is still fitting that the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington should come so close together in this month of February.

One of the most important examples given by Washington and Lincoln is that they stood for the stars—one to found a nation that did not want founding, the other to save a nation that did not want to be saved. With their sights on a cause worthy of their deep faith and unceasing efforts, neither discouragement, derision or heartrending odds could stop them from achieving ultimate success, winning it by courage, vision and firm leadership.

Washington believed in a free nation where a new Union Jack, symbolizing the thirteen states on the eastern coastline would fly and replace the flag of the British Empire. Rather than insisting on a place of representation in the English Parliament, Washington fought to put American representatives in their own independent governing body. In 1860, Lincoln believed in the absolute necessity of the unity of the new country, in the strength of an undivided house.

In these difficult quests, both men were hindered. From the ranks of Washington's trusted officers emerged a traitor, from the files of his foot soldiers many abandoned the cause that seemed doomed.

Lincoln found himself surrounded by a hostile group of advisors, a murmuring public and a critical press. An air of silent accusation permeated the atmosphere. But far from weakening their stand, this adversity strengthened the determination of Washington and Lincoln to accomplish their task.

From deep faith springs hidden fountains of strength and determination, latent in every man. These powers emerge when you start to reach a little higher heavenward and think of the good of your fellowmen as did Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Try it—success will not be denied you.

Monday, February 9, 1954.

A VALIANT SHEPHERD

Abraham Lincoln, whose Gettysburg Address is so indelibly impressed in our minds, once said: "If you forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem. It is true that you may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all the people all the time."

Every American has gazed at his homely but beautiful face on the penny, seen his statue in Washington and realized that his great humbleness and humility were as natural to him as breathing. What is the greatness about Lincoln . . . born in a small cabin, doing farm work, being smart enough, but not too smart? Why do great writers and ministers constantly refer to him in their editorials and Sunday sermons?

Because he had warmth and kindness and was a living proof of our American faith. He worked hard, studied law at night, finally found himself in politics. There was never bluster and bombast in his words . . . rather sadness and love that weighed so heavily upon him during those dark days in our history.

His dignity and steadfast hope was to serve his country the best way he knew how and keep families together. His big heart wished peace and the desire for all states to live in harmony. He was a valiant shepherd to a multitude of bewildered sheep. His love of life and people still sheds a light from Heaven, showing us the way . . . the way to being a good American in a world froth with tension and anxiety.

Monday, February 9, 1953.

MAN AMONG MEN

It is a noteworthy fact that Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday we celebrate this week, has been the subject of a staggering amount of research and writing. Every year brings renewed efforts to add to the existing studies of the Civil War President. The vast field of Lincolniana taxes the most ardent admirer of this "Peasant Prince".

Without effort on his part, the memory of Lincoln has defied the wages of time, short memories, death and new heroes. It is only natural to wonder about the reason for this sustained interest.

Without a doubt, Lincoln did a fine job in those difficult White House years where his strength of conviction overcame difficulties and obstacles and helped to preserve a united country. His deeds can be recited, but so can the deeds of many American heroes.

It is far more than the deeds that hold the hearts of Lincoln lovers. It is first and last the personality of the great man whose humility, goodness, humor, wisdom, attracts us. His qualities warm our hearts and we share in his courage, disappointments, joys and in the final tragedy of his death. This is not blind hero worship, but recognition of the inestimable worth of a fine person. Whatever his role, persevering scholar, rail-splitter, struggling lawyer, debater, President, this giant among men holds the love of the American people.

Whatever one can gain from Lincoln, the best one could do would be to imitate the qualities that make him important, qualities that belong in some measure to every complete personality.

Monday, February 8, 1954.

LINCOLN AT ANTIETAM, MARYLAND. Reserve No. 43, taken by Mathew B. Brady, October 2, 1862, while the President visited General George B. McClellan on the battlefield.

Missionary Baptist State Con-

Chevrolet Poster Wins Art Directors Awards

A Chevrolet outdoor poster, emphasizing the attractive rear deck of its 1959 convertible, has been judged "best of 1958" in the automotive classification by the Art Directors Club of Chicago.

The 27th annual competition also gave Chevrolet second prize in the painted board classification. The sign depicted an enormous seagull with outspread wings to symbolize Chevrolet's graceful styling.

George Guido of Campbell-Ewald was art director of the prize winner.

Centerite Stars in Three-Act Comedy

February 28 marks the opening of "Reap the Wild Harvest," a three-act comedy-drama being presented by the Academy Playhouse. The show will be given at 8:30 p.m. for two consecutive evenings at Cannon Memorial, 5103 Guilford off E. Warren and Cadieux.

Appearing in the cast of approximately fifteen is Donn Klein, 910 W. Kirby, an employee of the Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. Co., who will be seen in the role of "Peter."

The show, written and directed by Gerry Raad, deals dramatically with the relationship between a doctor on the verge of retirement and his children as they begin to face the challenges of life.

Tickets will be on sale for $1.25 at the door on the evenings of performances, or may be purchased from members of the group.

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New Canaan News
February 23, 1959

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 4 ★

By William Springer

Author's Note—This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.

PRINCE OF THE COMMONERS

It was a long time ago that a gangling youngster was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. It was, in fact, on February 12, 1809, seven score and six years ago.

And on that day was born a man—a man of the people, a man by the people, a man for the people. Yes, he was for the people and no matter how many score years may pass, he still will be remembered as the people's "Honest Abe."

Honesty was no fetish with Lincoln; it was almost a religion. He lived honesty; he breathed honesty; and he strove for honesty in those around him. He was a giant who cut himself down to the size of the people.

But Lincoln was handicapped by the dishonest, just as were Presidents before and after him. However, let this not be a taint on his untainted escutcheon. He put down corruption as far as his powers availed him; he assailed the crooked and he decried the ego-minded altruists in his regime.

There were undercurrents of belligerency in his aides, there was a sense of selfish and fiendish self-exploitation among his top associates. Lincoln did not condone nor countenance this. He fought it to the best of his ability. Fighting, however, does not always connote winning.

While he lived Lincoln kept things pretty well under control. But, after his assassination, the subversiveness in Washington became apparent.

Even the vanquished South had, and still has respect for Lincoln; just as the well informed Northerner respects the ideals and the patriotism of Robert E. Lee.

It is too bad that two such great Christian gentlemen could not have been a team, an all-American team, working together for what they both believed; a free democratic country with liberty and justice for all.

One Lee by Lincoln's side could have outweighed and overwhelmed the radical Chandler of Detroit, the power-hungry Stanton, the countless others who took advantage of a great, but overly-generous and ever-forgiving Lincoln.

So, on this birthday, let us honor not only Abraham Lincoln but pay tribute to his honesty.

Let us dedicate our efforts to seek to wipe out not only the "5th Columnists" from without, but also to eradicate the "5th Columnists" from within who represent the utmost opposite, the exact antithesis of the beliefs, the hopes and the aspirations of one of the world's greatest men.

Generous, thoughtful, gracious, intelligent, brave, gallant, gentle, kindly, simple...

"Honest Abe Lincoln."

—Monday, February 7, 1955.

MARBLE BUST. This statue by Gutzon Borglum was a gift to The Detroit institute of Arts by Ralph Harman Booth in 1924. It lay collecting dust in the basement until February 12, 1956 when it was erected by American Citizens of German Ancestry through the German-American Cultural Center. (The Detroit Institute of Arts Photo.)

LINCOLN RETURNS FROM EXILE

Until last Sunday, it appeared that Dynamic Detroit had little time for the memory of Abraham Lincoln, the man to whom the whole world pays tribute, and for whom every man aware of his selflessness, honesty and unending struggle to strengthen the bonds uniting the peoples of his country has idealized.

Thirty-two years ago, the Detroit Institute of Arts acquired a five-foot bust of Lincoln, a fine work of art executed by sculptor Gutzon Borglum, and donated by the late Ralph Harman Booth, so that the city would have at least one fine statue prominently displayed in tribute to the prairie President.

But it was promptly banished to the basement, where it gathered dust through the years. Your Editor, a great admirer and student of Lincoln tried editorially, as have many others tried, to have it brought back to view, to no avail.

Now, after all those years of "exile," the statue is in its rightful place. On the great man's 147th birthday, he was dutifully and well set up on an eight-foot marble pedestal, on the grounds of the Institute by American Citizens of German Ancestry in Detroit.

Surely the time was far past due for this city to join with the rest of the world, in honoring fittingly and proudly the man who has been immortalized in the annals of the country to which he dedicated his life.

—Monday, February 27, 1956.

PRESERVER OF OUR FREEDOMS

One hundred and forty-seven years ago this Sunday, February 12, and thirty-four years after the Declaration of Independence was drawn up and signed by the first great leaders of this country, a baby boy destined to become the greatest of them all was born.

He was Abraham Lincoln, child of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who lived on a poor, barren farm in Kentucky.

Little did the world, any more than his poverty-ridden parents, realize that their son would grow to such greatness that today his memory is held in the highest esteem all over the world; that his deeds would gain for him the reputation of being the one man in history to come closest to exemplifying the principles of Jesus of Nazareth.

Every school child knows the story of his humble beginning, and how the hardships he bore throughout his life. But despite all adversities, his honesty, courage and vision, his whole philosophy of doing for others, won for this country a unity and democracy unequalled anywhere.

—Monday, February 13, 1956.

WORLD NEEDS ANOTHER ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"The heroes of the hour are relatively great; of a foster growth; or they are such in whom at the moment of success, a quality is ripe which is then in request. Other days will demand other qualities . . ."

—Emerson.

What is the true greatness of a man? Is it measured by the applause that resounds moments after his words have echoed in a brilliant and resounding speech, or perhaps by the pomp and pageantry that accompany his journeys through the land, or yet by the material riches that are at his disposal at every command, or by birth into a noble family with an impressive lineage of famous men?

It is possible that during life, an individual's seeming greatness may at one time or other be measured by at least some of these rather passing standards.

Yet, if we but pause to consider, we shall see that there have been many princely men who have known this glory in their life. Yet, who remembers them today? How many people of our day, should we mention various names of these noblemen of the past, will merely shrug their shoulder with an unknowing tone piercing us. There may be a few students of history who have come to know these names in course of their studies, but these were merely heroes of the hour—a flash in the pan.

If we were to apply the aforementioned standards of greatness, many men of history would fall far short of them. Our country, the land of freedom, and the land of promise, takes justifiable pride in the fact that it is the home of great men, whose nobility was not merely of the hour, but whose words and actions have stood the test of time. Most certainly, if riches, or noble birth, or temporary applause were the criteria of greatness, Abraham Lincoln, would fall short of them. He was not born in a castle, a log cabin was his home; he did not possess great amounts of gold, he was so poor that he had to walk long miles to borrow books; he had no university degree, in fact he never saw the inside of a classroom; he did not possess fine clothes, his appearance was adjudged unkempt.

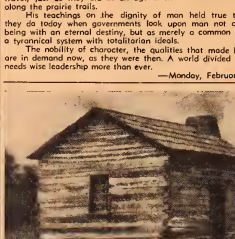
He wasn't given to lofty oratory, his greatest speech took less time than a modern radio commercial, yet it is remembered and cherished by all through the years. His life was not filled with pomp and pageantry, even when he rose to the greatest office of the land. While other men are all but ignored today, he is deeply revered by untold millions.

Lincoln is a hero not merely of his hour, but of an eternal age. His vibrant words full of faith, held meaning in the age of space travel, just as they did in an age when the covered wagons rolled along the prairie trails.

His teachings on the dignity of man held true then, just as they do today when governments look upon man not as a spiritual being with an eternal destiny, but as merely a common possession of a tyrannical system with totalitarian ideals.

The nobility of character, the qualities that made Lincoln great are in demand now, as they were then. A world divided against itself needs wise leadership more than ever.

—Monday, February 10, 1958.



LINCOLN CABIN. The structure illustrated in this photograph is now enshrined near Hodgenville, Kentucky, in Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, and believed to be a fake. (U.S. Army Corps Photo.)

. . . SO THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE—

Out of the darkness of his sorrow, he brought the light to the heart-sick, out of the discouragement he knew so well, he brought hope to the downtrodden, from the deprivations of his youth, he molded a wealth that the world had not yet known, and with his indomitable spirit he first broke his own limiting shackles, then the fetters of the slaves, from a humble beginning, he made his way to the White House.

This was Abraham Lincoln, the man who started out with less of the blessings of fate than many a man, yet who left to posterity a legacy to the richest heritage.

It is significant that this man who did not know the inside of a classroom, and whose school consisted of study by the fireside light from books he walked miles to borrow, should be the author of one of the three greatest orations that have ever been given to the world; one that is used as a model by writers and speakers alike.

His Gettysburg Address, a brief gem of literary masterpiece, consists of 267 simple words. Yet, the speech of this unschooled man is remembered by all, while hardly anyone is aware that Edward Everett, a graduate of Harvard, also spoke on that occasion.

As a child Lincoln had only small scraps of paper on which he could practice his literary efforts, therefore, he early learned the importance and significance of brevity.

Brought up among pioneers, many of whom were illiterate, and whose vocabulary was limited, he felt it was always of utmost importance that he express himself plainly, so that common man could understand.

In his literary compositions one can detect a finity of purpose, a sincerity and beauty found nowhere else, and signs of the influence of his most important textbook, the Bible; the pathos and intensity of a prophet.

This man, Abraham Lincoln, among the greatest sons of America, was the one judged by his townsmen as the one that they would have least suspected to be President one day.

This is Lincoln, described by Robert G. Ingersoll, as a "Strange mingling of mirth and tears, of the tragic and grotesque, of cap and crown, of Socrates and Rabelais, of Aesop and Marcus Aurelius: Lincoln, the gentlest memory of the world."

—Monday, February 11, 1957.

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New Center News
Detroit, Michigan
March 2, 1959

★ Paper No. 5 ★

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

WILLIAM SPRINGERS

New Center News
Detroit, Michigan
March 2, 1959

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By William Springer

Author's Note: This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.

Tom and Nancy Named Him Abraham

While Thomas Jefferson, the Sage of Monticello, of Albemarle County, Virginia, was completing his second term as President, and expounding his theories of democratic government in what was then known as the original Republican Party, and the great South American liberator Simon Bolivar was blazing the trail to free his people from the yoke of economic slavery of the mother countries, Spain and Portugal, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, kind hearted, toiling backwoods woman gave birth on a barren farm near Hodgenville, Kentucky to an infant son, and they named him Abraham. Little did the world then realize that this child was to become one of the greatest statesmen and national heroes a country has ever produced.

Memories of the poverty stricken boyhood of young Lincoln were to weld themselves into a philosophy, a sort of metaphysical faith, to serve as a springboard from which in later years a force was launched that saved the Union. The boy Abraham learned of slavery while working on the flatboats running down the Mississippi to New Orleans, seeing human beings bartered and sold, tortured like so many wild beasts, cringing under the sharp lashes of their masters—human beings of the same red blood as any other race of man, but born with the stigma of human bondage upon them because of their color and origin.

From a simple, common, kindly country attorney he emerged from obscurity upon the scene of America at the critical time when the New England Hamiltonians were concerned with abolishment of slavery strictly for expansion and preservation of their industrial progress, while the Southern agrarian royalists fought against Northern opposition to extend slavery to new territories for expansion of their kingdom of cotton and tobacco weed.

The Great Emancipator did not concern himself with the golden calf worshipers of the Hamiltonian North or the royalist South. His chief concern was as he himself explained, not the abolishment of slavery, but fighting its extension into new territories. He sought to save the Union. Slavery was but a smoke screen trumped up by the leaders of both factions, and no one knew it better than Lincoln. The war in which Lincoln served the country was fought like the war today for our national existence, a war between the cotton king and the Wall Street king, the Southern agriculturist and the Northern industrialist. Lincoln had taken the oath to save this nation, and with the help of the Almighty and an iron will, he determined to preserve it at all cost.

His enemies on both sides opposed this will, labeled him as uncouth, illiterate, coarse, a backwoodsman—even later historians, among them a late President of the United States, referred to Lincoln as having descended from "low Southern trash." But the niceties of life counted far less than the stamina and the courage to see things through in the bloodiest clinches of our history. And it was under the administration and able guidance of this so-called "backwoodsman" that Selective Service and drafting of men into the army was first introduced and the nation saved. His enemies called that act unconstitutional, but Lincoln, unlike money changers of his day, wanted to save the Union, and in his great wisdom knew he must take no chances on wholesale desertion with ranks filled by volunteers.

LINCOLN THE FRONTIERSMAN, from the original photograph inscribed "To William Springer in remembrance of Lincoln day at the University of Michigan, February 12, 1941. (Signed)—Avard Fairbanks, Sculptor."

Above is pictured a model for the nine-foot bronze erected at Ewa Plantation School near Honolulu. This is nearly a three-foot plaster model which Dr. Fairbanks used in sculptoring the bronze, and it was on display at Women's League Building on the University of Michigan Campus until Dr. Fairbanks presented it to me.

I acquired the statue October 11, 1941, while a guest of the Fairbanks. Dr. Fairbanks and I carried it clear across the campus to the studio to have the statue "touched up" a little. They have eight sons and Mrs. Fairbanks used to boast that with their famous sculptor-father, she had a complete baseball team.

Dr. Fairbanks was a faculty member at the University of Michigan and is presently the Dean of Fine Arts at the University of Utah.

The first six presidents, the nation's founding fathers, were sons of so-called aristocrats, with varied literary backgrounds in contrast to Lincoln's simple, uncultured obscurity, and coming to power as he did when the nation was conspired against by traitors from within, and at the point of secession, he was called upon to exercise great judgment and dictatorial powers in order to preserve the nation. His simple, all-powerful philosophy of life, which stemmed from unswerving faith in the transcending power of righteousness, has proven him the greatest benefactor of mankind since the birth of our Savior. For Lincoln was the savior of His principles that in the end will save mankind from tyranny, oppression and aggression the world over.

And now, one hundred and thirty-four years since his birth, the grandeur of the man has become more firmly imbedded in the hearts of his countrymen than ever before. Men the world over are striving for an opportunity to champion his ideals. Every school child, and every citizen knows by heart the story of his humble beginning, the hardships he endured throughout his life, and the great deeds he accomplished. We have read of the courageous bravery and sane philosophy which he exercised when the world about him was darkened by shadows of hate, greed, destruction and monopoly.

This week as in former years, we honor his birthday. The influence which Lincoln left to posterity cannot be easily estimated. One thing certain, however, is that no man who takes Abraham Lincoln as his model, and lives according to his code of ethics whether it be in politics, business, or private life can ever feel that he has lived in vain. —Monday, February 8, 1943.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Paper number four, in last week's issue of the New Center News brought to conclusion a series of editorial eulogies on Abraham Lincoln. With paper number five in this issue, we are continuing special articles in tribute to Abraham Lincoln's Sesquicentennial Year.

dish Rite Cathedral of Masonic Temple at 8:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9. Entitled "Vienna and The Blue Danube" it was filmed by Andre De La Varre who will serve as narrator.

Vienna, one of the world's oldest and most beautiful cities, occupies a place of high honor in the world of travel. Mr. De La Varre, who lives in the Austrian Capital, has produced a film of this area that is comprehensive, diversified and delightfully entertaining.

On view are glimpses of the inner city that was the Imperial Capital of the Austrian Empire — the palaces of the Hapsburgs, the public buildings and art collections, the beautiful parks, the famous Prater, the wineries of Grinzing and Nussdorf.

A feature of the film will be a journey down the Danube River from Passau, where the Danube first touches Austrian soil, to the Hungarian border, where it goes behind the Iron Curtain.

The climax of the travelog is the Opera Ball—a social event of beauty and elegance that is unsurpassed anywhere in the world.

New Post Office for Mackinac Is.

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield announced that bids would be solicited to lease space to the Post Office Department in a new building to be constructed on Mackinac Island, Michigan.

The new post office building will be located on the historical site furnished to the Department by the City of Mackinac Island under an assign- [illegible] for the restoration program. It will be an outstanding example of Early American Colonial architecture, blending with the plans for restoration. This post office will be the mecca for thousands of tourists who visit the Island each year.

Civil Service Seeks Crime Investigator

J. A. Connor, Director of the Seventh U. S. Civil Service Region, announced today that applications are being accepted by the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Detroit Ordnance District, for the position of criminal investigator, GS-11.

The positions are located primarily with the Detroit Ordnance District, Detroit, Michigan. A few positions may be filled in other Federal agencies located in Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

The starting salary for these positions is $7030 per year.

Applications must be filed with the Executive Secretary, Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Detroit Ordnance District, Detroit 31, Michigan, and must be received or postmarked not later than March 25, 1959.

Interested persons may obtain applications or further information regarding these positions from the Seventh U. S. Civil Service Region, Main Post Office Building, Chicago 7, Illinois; the Executive Secretary, Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Detroit Ordnance District, Detroit, Michigan; or from any first or second-class post office.

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New Center News
March 9, 1959

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 6 ★

By William Springer

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Abraham Lincoln: His Literary Ability

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is one of his best known speeches. It has been translated in all the languages, widely read and reread by more than two thousand million human souls, and possibly is as well known to mankind as the Ten Commandments Moses received on the mountain of Sinai.

Among his other literary masterpieces are some that have been nearly as much read; his melancholy Springfield Farewell Speech to his friends, his Second Inaugural Address, and the famous letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, a Boston widow who had lost five of her sons in the Civil War.

I am reprinting the text of the immortal Bixby letter in contrast to a letter written by President Franklin D. Roosevelt upon sending his condolences to Mrs. J. E. Rogers of Birmingham, Alabama, whose three sons were reported killed in a naval engagement. After a comparison of these two letters, one need not be a literary genius to recognize the difference of simplicity and great literary style that helped to establish our martyred President's distinction for sincerity of purpose and kindness of heart.

It is not my aim to minimize the literary worth of President Roosevelt's letter, but rather to prove my point that both letters are great in their own way, and that never before nor since Lincoln's time, has anyone been able to emulate his extraordinary literary ability. As a matter of fact, Rogers letter in some respects seems to bear considerable likeness to the Bixby letter.

BIXBY LETTER

Executive Mansion, Nov. 21, 1864.

Dear Madam:

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully—Abraham Lincoln.

ROGERS LETTER

The White House, January 9, 1943.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Rogers:

I have just been advised of your loss of three sons who gave their lives in the performance of their duty in action against the enemy. There is little that I can say to lessen the burden of your grief. However, I want you to know that your great sorrow is shared not only by myself, but by the entire naval service. Your sons, Jack Ellis, Jr., Edward Keith, and Charles Ethbert, gave their lives in the service of our country which owes to you and them a debt of undying gratitude. As commander-in-chief, I express to you a nation's sympathy. I pray that God will comfort you and give you strength to bear this great sorrow. Very sincerely yours—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

SECOND INAUGURAL

The last paragraph of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865, is familiar to every school child in the land. This beautifully composed masterpiece of the English language, together with Lincoln's Gettysburg Address prove Lincoln's originality at his poetic best. Only a genius could put these words together:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

FATHER ABRAHAM—This is one of the most interesting studies ever made of Abraham Lincoln whose sesquicentennial birthday is being celebrated throughout the country this year. The original negative from which this photograph was made is in the personal Lincolniana collection of the author. The painting was originally made for the February, 1907 issue of the American Magazine. Although the artist's identity has not been definitely established, it is believed to be the work of Jay Hambidge. It was also used as a frontispiece in Ida M. Tarbell's book, "He Knew Lincoln."

SPRINGFIELD FAREWELL

In 1860, as he sadly ascended to the platform of his special train that was to take him to Washington, President-elect Lincoln stood looking into space in reverent silence. Before him gathered many friends he knew so well; friends whose lives had been so much a part of his. And then out of meditation and silence, amid the fury of pouring rain, he uttered these parting words to those beloved friends whom he was never to see again.

My Friends:

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will be well. To His care commending you as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

On November 18, 1863, the special presidential train arrived in Gettysburg and Lincoln spent the night at the home of Judge David Wills, in an old house which still stands in the public square, and which I had the privilege of visiting last winter. In fact, the present owner graciously presented me with a two-foot piece of lath from the very room where Lincoln spent the night and finished his renown Gettysburg Address. I sat in the same chair with a feeling of great exaltation.

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal . . . But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract . . . It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced . . . so that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom . . . and that government of the people . . . shall not perish from the earth."

—Monday, February 8, 1943.

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New Center News
March 16, 1959

New Center News
March 16, 1959

WILLIAM SPRINGER'S

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 7 ★

By William Springer

Author's Note: This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.

Thomas Jefferson: Lincoln's Beau Ideal

On April 14, 1865, an assassin's bullet pierced through the brain of the greatest man the world had ever known. His name and his deeds need not be retold, for he was known as just plain "Abe" to the millions who loved him, despite underhanded politics and stern opposition in his Cabinet and Congress. He was determined to bring back into American life the sane Jeffersonian Republican Democracy, a social, economic and political philosophy of Thomas Jefferson, who was his beau ideal.

If Lincoln's and Jefferson's theory of ideal government had not been obstructed through many generations by unscrupulous political scoundrels, negro and masses of white people alike would have escaped the political, economic and social exploitation they suffered under the heel of politicians and industrialists. It was upon the flesh and bone, blood and sweat of the ignorant proletariat the giant empires were built, and huge wealth accumulated, noteably between the Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt eras.

That savage crime, the greatest ever perpetrated against a nation since the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, the taking away of Lincoln's life, has not been satisfactorily solved; it remains for future students and historians to uncover the real truth why the "Great Emancipator" was murdered. Abraham Lincoln was confronted with the most underhanded, radical political machine in the history of our nation. Did a member of his cabinet plan his assassination? That we don't know, but we do know that the radical wing of his own political party tried time and again to persuade him to administer his presidential duties contrary to the welfare of his people; this he steadfastly refused to do.

We also know that Lincoln had said he was primarily interested in saving this nation, with or without abolishing slavery. If the Union could be saved without abolishing slavery, by confining it to the states where it existed, he would buy that. If it could be saved with the abolishment of slavery, then the black scourge, as he called it, must go—the nation shall be preserved for posterity at any cost. But the truth of the matter is that he himself had said in many of his public speeches, that to free a negro does not necessarily mean that he is his equal, socially or politically.

Noted scholars and historians assert that Lincoln had a plan for colonization of the negro race, and that he would undoubtedly have made some satisfactory provision for their social and economic independence had he not fallen victim to a madman's bullet.

As soon as he was eliminated from the American political scene, Andrew Johnson, Vice-President of the United States took the oath as President. Although a Southerner, he was a true patriot. He loved Lincoln, respected his unswerving loyalty to people, and was determined to carry out Lincoln's plan for reconstruction. The Benedict Arnold's of the golden calf worshiping fraternity could see no dividends in that. They threw a road block to every decent legislation this patriot proposed to Congress for sane administration of his predecessor's post-war policies.

General Ulysses S. Grant followed Johnson in the White House, and was manipulated like a lump of clay in a sculptor's hand. The politicians could turn and twist him any way they chose. The carpet-baggers and negroes were appointed to key office positions throughout the South, particularly so in South Carolina, with instructions to force the votes of both whites and blacks alike, for the Republican Party.

This practice continued with the Jeffries, the Smiths, the Murphys and others in Detroit as well as throughout the nation to the present day. President Grant served two terms and had the temerity to ask for a third. He was a great soldier, but one of the worst presidents.

HE BELONGS TO THE AGES. This is Lincoln the President, sculptored by Daniel Chester French, and erected in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, May 30, 1922. It is so huge, the sculptor had to fit it together in sections, with some finishing touches and final chiseling. When I visited the Lincoln Memorial on March 11, 1942, the first custodian, whose name escapes me, was still there, and he presented to me a piece of the Georgian marble from Lincoln's left shoulder. Needless to say, I cherish the memento dearly.

From Grant to Woodrow Wilson, excepting Theodore Roosevelt, nearly every president was a tool to politicians and private business monopoly. President Wilson was a great statesman like Jefferson and Lincoln, but his world-wide policies were circumvented by the radicals of another era, the Republican isolationists, and he died prematurely like Lincoln, a tired, broken-hearted old man.

The negro problem, never fully solved, but left simmering through the years as a volcano, has become during these perilous times a problem for every decent American to weigh from all angles, by digging deep into our national history for factual information, rather than resort to mob action founded on ignorance and prejudice.

There is no evidence that intelligent negroes desire integration with whites any more than whites with their race. Taking the law into our own hands is not going to solve the problem, if there is a problem. The riots based on misinformation are not a matter to be decided and brought to an end by bullets, but rather by ballots.

Our boys are dying daily by the thousands on the scattered battlefields of the world and the seven seas, while we at home are still fighting the evil effects of Civil War reconstruction period. Whether you are black or white, I care not a tinker's damn, but if you are in any way striving to foment racial prejudice during these perilous times at home, you are another Judas Iscariot.

A solution toward settling the negro problem will come when we cease evaluating our freedom in terms of personal material gain, whenever a corrupt office-seeker mounts a soap box to expound the theories of Jefferson and Lincoln. They are quoting the immortals to grease themselves into lush political jobs, not as actual outpouring of their own beliefs.

Had the political leaders been honest with their constituents for the past seventy-seven years, and if industry had not exploited the masses of poor and ignorant to swell their treasure chests, we would not have to cope with this racial unrest today. If our school children were taught honestly the deeds of our great Americans, rather than the well-worn phrases, "With malice toward none . . ." "I cannot tell a lie, father . . ." and many other such parables that give little insight into our democratic character, we would soon develop a generation of citizens throughly educated in the use of ballots to bring about certain economic and social reform in our government, rather than bullets that inspire national chaos and international disgrace.

—Monday, June 28, 1943.

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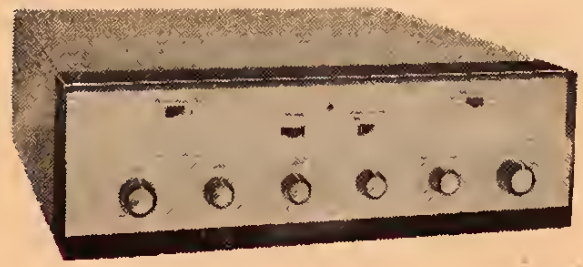

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New Center News
March 23, 1959

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 8 ★

By William Springer

Author's Note: This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.

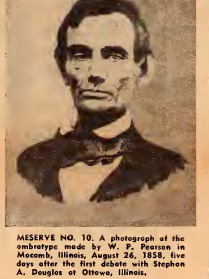
Lincoln's Forgotten Words

The bloodshed and destruction of the Detroit race riot give strong warning of the need to examine minutely the present status of relations between the two strafing groups. In the hysteria of the moment we allowed our judgment to be overshadowed by emotionalism. We listened to tales of Nazi pressure toward revolt. The anti-negro forces which were rampant were not, we believe, fed by Axis agencies, but resulted rather from our own home grown variety of hate breeding, strictly an American product.

Now that calm prevails, Detroit, one of the leading industrial centers of the world catapulted into a whirling volcano of racial antagonism, faces the problem of adjusting the demand of present and postwar conditions with reference to the negro. It is hardly a cause for fifth column investigation, but rather a clearly outlined need for a thorough purge of prejudices; for education shorn of fallacious doctrines. It is basically a problem of two peoples up in the midst of transition between the powerful heritage of the past and the mighty pull of the present, brought about with cataclysmic suddenness by tragedy of war.

What politicians would dare quote Lincoln's true words as recorded during his debates with Stephan A. Douglas preceding the presidential campaign of 1860? Rather than to elaborate on the unforgivable sin committed by the political office-seekers, we are reprinting excerpts from Lincoln's speeches as to his stand on the equality issue of white and black races.

Following quotations from Lincoln-Douglas debates are a matter of recorded history. To restrain rapacious politicians from further twisting his true political philosophy, let Lincoln's words speak for him.



MESERVE NO. 10. A photograph of the embalmer made by W. P. Pearson in Macomb, Illinois, August 26, 1858, five days after the first debate with Stephen A. Douglas at Ottawa, Illinois.

First joint debate at Ottawa, Illinois, August 21, 1858.

. . . When Southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we, I acknowledge that. When it is said that the institution exists, and that it is very difficult to get rid of it, in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself. If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do . . . My first impulse would be to free all the slaves and send them to Liberia, their own native land. But a moment's reflection would convince me that whatever of high hope there may be in this in the long run, its sudden execution is impossible . . . There are not surplus shipping and surplus money enough in the world to carry them there . . . What then? Free them all and keep them among us as underlings? Is it quite certain that this betters their condition . . . Free them, and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this; and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of white people will not . . . A universal feeling, whether well or ill founded, cannot be safely disregarded. We cannot, then, make them equals . . . this is the true complexion of all I have ever said in regard to the institution of slavery and the black race. This is the whole of it; and anything that argues me into his (Senator Stephan A. Douglas) idea of perfect social and political equality with the negro is but a specious and fantastic arrangement of words, by which a man can prove a horse-chestnut to be a chestnut horse . . . I have no purpose directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and the black races. There is a physical difference between the two which, in my judgement, will probably forever forbid their living together upon the footing of perfect equality; and inasmuch as it becomes a necessity that there must be a difference, I am in favor of the race to which I belong having the superior position. I have never said anything to the contrary, but I hold, that there is no reason in the world why the negro is not entitled to all the natural rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence . . . I agree, he (negro) is not my equal in many respects . . . but in the right to eat the bread, without the leave of anybody else, which his own hand earns . . . he is the equal of every living man . . .

From a "Hause Divided" Speech delivered at Springfield, Illinois, June 16, 1858 at the Republican State Canvention, which had nominated Abraham Lincoln its candidate for United States Senator.

. . . If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do, and how to do it. We are now far into the fifth year since a policy was initiated with the avowed object . . . of putting an end to slavery agitation . . . That policy has not only not ceased, but has constantly augmented . . . A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other . . .

Fram an address at Cooper Union, New York City, February 27, 1860. Lincoln pleads with the Southern people for a better understanding, and he proves that he believes in Jeffersonian emancipation and deportation by slow degrees.

. . . In the language of Thomas Jefferson, uttered many years ago, "It is still in our power to direct the process of emancipation and deportation peaceably, and in such slow degrees as that avil will wear off insensibly; and their places be, *pari passu*, filled up by free white laborers. If on the contrary, it is left to force itself on, human nature must shudder at the prospect held up" . . . Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the government, nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it . . .

From a speech at New Haven, Conn., March 6, 1860; Lincoln's oft quoted statement approving labor's right to strike to improve working conditions.

. . . I am glad to see that a system of labor prevails in New England under which laborers can strike when they want to, where they are not obliged to work under all circumstances . . . I like the system which lets a man quit when he wants to . . . I take it that it is best for all to leave each man free to acquire property as fast as he can . . . some will get wealthy . . . So while we do not propose any war upon capital, we do wish to allow the humblest man to get rich with everybody else . . . When one starts poor, as most do in the race of life, free society is such that he knows he can better his conditions . . . I am not ashamed to confess that twenty-five years ago, I was a hired laborer, mauling rails, at work on flat boats, just what might happen to any poor man's son . . . The hired laborer of yesterday, labors on his own account today, and will hire others to labor for him tomorrow . . .

—Monday, July 12, 1943.

camps were reserved (and still are) for the older fellows—Boy Scouts and Explorers.

In 1956 the policy was adjusted to permit some older Cub Scouts to spend a day in a Council camp. Known as "Webelos Den Day at Camp", members of 100 Webelos Dens, with their dads, were invited to the Charles Howell Scout Reservation. The project was an outstanding success. In 1957 and 1958 the attendance increased to beyond the reservation's capacity.

This year both camps are being utilized to accommodate [illegible] cludes experience in Boy Scout skills such as knot-tying, fire-building, tracking, and archery. Demonstrations will be given in marksmanship, use of axe, and various crafts. There may even be time for a little sailing, row-boating, or canoeing under dad's supervision. The busy, thrilling 'day at camp' will end with a barbecued dinner.

Applications are now being received and, as both camps (totalling more than 2,000 acres) are in use, it is believed all applicants can be accommodated.

Malone Advertising Manager for Pontiac

Appointment of John F. Malone as advertising manager for Pontiac Motor Division has been announced by Frank V. Bridge, general sales manager. The appointment is effective April 1.

Malone, formerly manager of Pontiac's Cleveland sales zone, succeeds B. A. Kissam who has been named manager of the vehicle sales staff for GM Overseas Operations Division in New York City.

Malone joined Pontiac in 1940 as parts and service representative in Boston following extensive experience with automobile dealerships in Wilmington, Delaware, and assignments with the GM Sales Section. He also served as district manager, service manager, and business management manager in the Boston Zone before his promotion to assistant zone manager in Philadelphia in 1949. During the same year, Malone assumed the duties of Pittsburgh zone manager, later been Cleveland zone manager since 1957.

Following seven years' employment with a New York publishing house, Kissam joined Pontiac's Advertising Department in 1936. In 1937 he was named manager of customer relations and, in 1938, transferred to the Division's field sales organization. Then followed assignments as district manager and assistant zone manager in New York; zone manager in Cincinnati; and zone and regional manager in New York. Kissam returned to the Pontiac, Michigan, home office in 1956 to assume the duties of assistant general sales manager in charge of staff operations. He had been advertising manager since 1958.

Various religious bodies in the nation have made available to their boys in Scouting distinctive awards in recognition of their growth in knowledge, experience, and Service

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- ☒ Edison maintains electrical parts without charge
- ☒ Safe—clean—quiet—modern

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New Center News
March 30, 1959

"LINCOLNOOK" MEMORIES

★ Paper No. 9 ★

By William Springer

Author's Note: This year marks the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Many sesquicentennial celebrations are in the making throughout the land honoring this "Prince of the Rails." So that we may appropriately pay homage to this "Uncommon Commoner," I am reprinting my selected editorial writings and miscellaneous Lincoln papers from my "Lincolnook," recalling the memories that took me down the Lincoln Trail during the past thirty-two years as student and collector of Lincolniana.

Lincoln, FDR, and the Detroit River: A Comparison

An expedition comprised of a group of intrepid Frenchmen, under the command of Robert Cavelier Sieur de LaSalle, anchored their schooner Griffon opposite the shores of what later became a site for the great arsenal of democracy. This momentous event occurred during the later part of summer of 1679. Some years later, on a bright summer day in 1701, Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac landed with his expedition on the site admiringly envied by the adventurous LaSalle.

The story of LaSalle and Cadillac is familiar to every true son of Detroit. Further embellishment of this theme would be superfluous. This is not intended to be a history of our beloved city, but rather a brief essay of a passenger aboard S.S. Globe en route from Buffalo to Chicago, who briefly visited the Port of Detroit one hundred and sixty-nine years following LaSalle.

He was an obscure, homely, gaunt lawmaker from Illinois, who was little known around these parts in those days. Historical archives have been ransacked thoroughly, and this researcher has worked laboriously on a manuscript since 1939, in an attempt to establish an authentic record of his sojourn on the Detroit River, and to settle the argument once and for all time that he never set his foot on Detroit soil.

This brilliant man was Abraham Lincoln. He journeyed back to Springfield and his beloved prairie state upon the adjournment of Congress, after casting his ballot against the war with Mexico, claiming that the United States Government was carrying the war of aggression against that nation. In 1861, he resorted to every possible means of averting the war with the South. He was willing to confine the slavery where it already existed to preserve the Union. Was he a forerunner of Wilsonian era isolationism? This in itself would make a long, long story. It is a matter of record that he did not run for a second term in Congress. He knew the citizens of Illinois would not return him to Washington, due to his stand on the Mexican situation.

Yes, the autumn of 1848 brought the prairie rail-splitter to Detroit. This was the first and only time he cast his eyes upon the skyline of our town. The population then was 20,000 and the tallest structure was the Newberry Building, five stories high, located on West Jefferson Avenue. Among other things, it housed a dry goods store owned by Zachariah Chandler, in whose often misdirected and cunning mind was reborn the Jeffersonian National Republican Party, so proclaimed "under the oaks" in Jackson, Michigan, July 6, 1854, beneath whose banner Lincoln marched to victory during the presidential election in 1860.

MESERVE NO. 1. This is the earliest known portrait of Abraham Lincoln by N. H. Shepherd of Springfield, Illinois. Some say that it was made in 1846, while others assert that Lincoln sat for it in 1848 the year he made a voyage up the Detroit River and around the Lakes. He was in his latter thirties, a comparatively young man.

Lincoln did not know as he looked north toward our town, that within a stone's throw was a man, the old fireball "Zach" who later became prominently identified with the Republican Party, was elected several times the Senator from Michigan, and affiliated himself with the radical wing of that party before, during and after Lincoln's administration. Yes, old "Zach" proved to be one of Lincoln's severe critics, opposing him on all important issues with black Republicans, thus prolonging the Civil War, rather than bringing it to a speedier termination.

Many prominent men came to Detroit in the autumn when the city and the countryside is clothed in its foliage of gold. What a grandeur of beauty! Among other dignitaries who visited our town was Franklin D. Roosevelt making the pilgrimage twice, but under somewhat different circumstances. The significant point to bear in mind is that there were no brass bands to meet Lincoln. He was little known and just another passerby going up the river to Chicago.

A decade preceding the 1860 presidential election gave Lincoln an opportunity to study statesmanship and political contacts in the old Northwest Territory. Immediately after his journey on the Great Lakes he stumped for General Zachariah Taylor. Simultaneously Chandler of Detroit did his part for that Whig candidate in Michigan. Lincoln knew and was intimately associated with James F. Joy, Detroit's railroad magnate, as well as several other leaders in Detroit and Michigan politics.

Indeed, the decade of fifties gave Lincoln an opportunity to prepare himself for the greatest office a nation can bestow upon its native son. And when the presidential fight began in 1860, campaign promises blew their ill wind on the Lincoln candidacy, causing frustration to his every scheme for holding together a country already splitting into two factions over the menacing slave question, shifting the loyal citizens into the camp of the seditionists. Only the slightest provocation was needed to whip an already roiled nation into a civil war.

Riding the reactionary Republican Party to oust President James Buchanan, Lincoln headed a faction made up of strange bedfellows, Old Whigs of which he was one, radical Republicans and Free Soil Democrats, the latter having broken away from the solid Democratic Party.

At the Chicago convention in 1860, Lincoln's agents promised patronage to every party leader who was able to pull votes from his state. Most of these party bosses were corrupt. It followed that their method of getting votes were somewhat unethical in many cases. When the payoff came, Lincoln was left with the unpleasant task of fitting those men into his administrative family. His cabinet was made up of men who were at odds with one another, and to a great extent with him—political Al Capones.

Out of this chaos, by the sheer power of his great wisdom, he was able to weld a machine that created the beginnings of an ethnic Republican Democracy for the American people; a democracy that when Franklin D. Roosevelt took over the reins, was so laced with Alexander Hamilton's imperialism, that we had reached a point where we had taken to paying our farmers to kill off their pigs and plow under their fields; the plea being that to let surplus commodities loose on the flooded market would lower our standard of living. Somewhere along the line a germ planted by a great American was allowed to be grown over with the weeds of pettifoggery and greed.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's heritage of cultural lineage taught him the smooth and gentle way of cutting through the easy way of subterfuge, of juggling people, cajoling them by withholding until the propitious time to let loose his blows until the edges were smoothed over. Lincoln had to learn these things the hard way.

Roosevelt was conditioned to diplomacy, and selected his official family from among the men of his own party, men whose reactions he could more or less accurately predict. They were ripe for the New Deal, and swung in behind him. His political machinery was carefully compounded on a scale that reached out to touch and to exert pressure on the party leaders in every state, to keep the voting machine solidly behind him, so he could devote his time to the business of running the government. Lincoln was forced to spend a great portion of his time in the White House, dealing with the ever present bickering and patronage problem that accosted him on every side.

Little wonder that historians are able to see the greatness that was Lincoln, the qualities of statesmanship he possessed that have put him in the ranks of the world's great, though at the time he was very nearly defeated for a second term, because he refused to play the facile game of politics.

Lincoln was a great president. The things that he stood for will never be forgotten by mankind. I venture to say that if civilization will remember Lincoln, then all nations will never forget the benefits gained through the statesmanship of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

As we remember, first time FDR came to Detroit, there were no brass bands of welcome. Daily press informed its readers that everyone went to the Belle Isle zoo, at the mouth of the Detroit River, to watch Joe Mendy—a chimpanzee performer. I was probably the original "forgotten man," standing alone on Washington Boulevard in front of the Book Tower watching FDR wave to me. He was accompanied by the Hon. Frank Murphy, then Mayor of Detroit, on a tour of the city that gave our Chief Executive the coldest reception ever accorded a presidential candidate. It was on a Sunday morning in the autumn of 1932—there was no political ballyhoo amid starvation, empty stomachs and despair.

Lincoln's ability as a leader for the common good of the masses was recognized the world over not long after his martyrdom. After his assassination, Jefferso-Lincolnian democracy degenerated to a point of Hamiltonian imperialism, and has reached proportion of dictato-communistic regimentation due to our failure in electing statesmen capable of interpreting and carrying into action Jefferso-Lincolnian philosophy of republican democracy.

It must be remembered that the population in Lincoln's time was thirty million. Emigration was encouraged and the country has grown with such rapidity that we have assumed a leading role among the largest nations in the world. A contributing factor has been the influx of people from all lands, upon whose sweat and blood the great empires were built, but whose welfare was neglected by the nation's leaders as soon as Lincoln disappeared from the American scene. These simple but honest people have been exploited for many decades by both political parties. After several generations of servitude and injustice imposed upon them, their sons and daughters, born of the American soil and blessed with the heritage unparalled in the history of mankind, are bringing about an emancipation patterned after Jefferso-Lincolnian democracy. A leader from these later generations has emerged—a giant of the century—a Messiah comparable only to the great Civil War President. He has appeared on the American scene to bring about social justice and economic independence to the entire world. His name: Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

—Monday, February 7, 1944

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